

From: Gary D. Young
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:43pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hi,

I just want to comment that I feel accepting a settlement with Microsoft is a bad thing. One thing which Microsoft is known to do in the present (not legally proven, but widely known among technical professionals) is to threaten (sometimes legal) action against companies which attempt to provide alternate emulations of Microsoft's products. What this means, is that companies without the deep pockets necessary to develop something from scratch, or companies without the corporate muscle of Microsoft in pushing standards are unable to provide working alternatives. Accepting a settlement of any sort with them, only encourages Microsoft to continue the games they played with browsers, hard drive error scanning software, compression software, authentication, and other niches that reduce consumer options.

If consumers having options is considered a good thing in the marketplace, decline the settlement. If consumers having no choice is a good thing, then we are all vulnerable to the same windows viruses, and all vulnerable to whatever corporate whim Microsoft may decide upon.

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